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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 29 September 1965

25X1 1. [] Senator John Stennis asked for a briefing
on South Vietnam, particularly the military situation, for three o'clock
25X1 on 29 September. [] and Mr. Houston met with him and went
over the current military situation in detail. Senator Stennis said his
problem was that he felt that the people in the back country of the U. S.
where their boys were being drafted were not sufficiently informed on
the military state of affairs in South Vietnam. Despite the current
improvement in the military situation, Senator Stennis said he felt that
they had a long, long, rough way to go yet and the trouble was the people
heard of improvement and immediately thought everything was going to
be over shortly. He had just made one speech in southern Mississippi
and apparently was checking his material with us in preparation for
further speeches. He seemed very pleased with [] briefing. 25X1

25X1 2. [] Talked with Stanley Plesant, General
Counsel, USIA, reporting to him our discussions with Representatives
Bow and Lipscomb. I suggested for his consideration careful coordina-
tion of next year's presentations so that what USIA stated in appropria-
tions hearings would be consistent in the event CIA were also asked about
the same situations. Mr. Plesant agreed that this appeared to be highly
desirable and that the Vietnam situation was different than other areas
in the world and probably should be treated differently. He indicated
his impending departure from Government. He stated he would brief his
replacement and urge him to be in touch with the Agency.

25X1 3. [] Talked with Donald Smith, Bureau of the
Budget, who had a query from Congressman Frank Evans about Agency
financing. In addition to the points that Smith had in the proposed draft
letter to Evans, I suggested that he include reference to the CIA Subcom-
mittees. In addition, I advised Smith that we had not had contact with Evans
which would have involved any discussion in depth of Agency financing.

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